

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:

a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and open at an opposite end; a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite insertable end for inserting into said open end of said sheath; upon inserting said insertable end into said sheath, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.

2. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:

a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end; a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath; upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.

3. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, further comprising a hanger coupled to said first end of said sheath.

4. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 3, wherein said hanger is rotatably coupled.

5. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, wherein said female end opens into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath, said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit.

6. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said expanded section has a length of between 3/4" and 3".

7. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said sheath further comprises an inner hollow longitudinal section for receiving and fully enclosing said utensil end.

8. (currently amended) A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end, said female end opening into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath;  
a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;  
said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit and upon joining said male portion to said female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user to manipulate said utensil end;  
said male portion further comprising a rounded end and an opposite end, wherein upon inserting said utensil end into said hollow sheath, said opposite end of said male portion seats within said expanded section with a friction fit to fully enclose said utensil end within said sheath. The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said male portion further comprises a rounded end and an opposite end, wherein upon inserting said

~~utensil end into said hollow sheath, said opposite end of said male portion seats within said expanded section with a friction fit to fully enclose said utensil end within said sheath.~~

9. **(currently amended)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 8, wherein said sheath and male portion are cylindrical and said [opposite] closed end of said sheath is rounded identically to said rounded end of said male portion.
10. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, further comprising said male portion having a threaded outside diameter for threadably engaging with a threaded inside diameter of said female end.
11. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, wherein said male portion further comprises a pin, said pin engaging with a slot imparted into said female end.
12. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2 wherein said utensil end is selected, from the group consisting of a fork, a spoon, a skewer or a knife blade.
13. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:
  - a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite open female end;
  - a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;
  - said female end having an inside diameter sufficient for snugly receiving said male portion therein in a friction fit;

upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.

14. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, further comprising a hanger coupled to said first end of said sheath.

15. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 14, wherein said hanger is rotatably coupled.

16. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said female end opens into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath, said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit.

17. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 16, wherein said expanded section has a length of between 3/4" and 3".

18. (canceled) The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said sheath further comprises an inner hollow longitudinal section for receiving and fully enclosing said utensil end.

19. (withdrawn) The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said utensil further comprises means for interchangeably connecting various utensil ends.

20. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 19, wherein said means comprises a shaft having a male adaptor and said utensil ends comprise a female adaptor for coupling with said male adaptor.

21. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement of claim 19, wherein said utensil ends are selected from the group consisting of a spatula, a fish basket and a popcorn cooking pot.

22. **(new)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end;  
a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;  
said sheath and male portion being comprised of a heat resistant material; and  
upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.

23. **(new)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 22, wherein said heat resistant material is a heat resistant plastic.

24. **(new)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end;  
a utensil comprising a fork end for interacting with a food item, said fork end tapering into a shaft, said shaft being embedded into a male portion opposite said fork end, said male portion of said utensil being insertable into said female end of said sheath; and

whereupon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming a handle, said sheath being sufficiently elongate to allow a user to safely manipulate food items being cooked in an environment of heat and flames.